



# FEMA



Prepared by  
*Jennifer McNatt*

# FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

**Disclaimer:** The purpose of this briefing is to provide a **Regional** weather threat assessment and is meant as a general overview. County/Parish decision makers should consult their local NWS forecast offices for the latest detailed, local weather information.

To find your local NWS forecast office, go to [www.weather.gov/srh](http://www.weather.gov/srh).

## Today and Wednesday

- Areas of heavy rain/flash flooding possible over **STX** this morning and along/near the **TX Coast** throughout today.
- Isolated heavy rain possible along the **TX** and **SE LA Coasts** on **Wednesday**.

## Thursday - Saturday

- Heavy rain/flash flooding possible along the **TX & SW LA Coasts** beginning on **Thursday**.
- A weak tropical system (perhaps a tropical depression) may be moving across the western **Gulf of Mexico** on **Thursday** and possibly towards the **TX Coast** late **Thursday/Friday**.
- Heavy rain threat is likely to continue over **S & S-Central TX** on **Friday** and **Saturday**.

## Tropical Outlook

- Hurricane Florence is a major hurricane and will make landfall along the **Atlantic Coast** late **Thursday/Friday**. Impacts to **FEMA 6** are not expected.
- Tropical Storm Isaac will continue moving west across the **Lesser Antilles** and into the eastern **Caribbean Sea** as a Tropical Storm on **Thursday**.
- Hurricane Helene is in the eastern **Atlantic** and will remain in the **Atlantic**. Impacts to **FEMA 6** are not expected.
- A large area of disturbed weather over the extreme **NW Caribbean Sea** and the **SE Gulf of Mexico** is associated with a surface trough interacting with an upper level low. Although this activity is showing signs of organization, there are no signs of a surface circulation. Limited development is anticipated today, but upper level winds are forecast to become more conducive, and a tropical depression could form on **Thursday** or **Friday** while the disturbance moves across the western **Gulf of Mexico**.
  - Formation chances in the next 48 hours...low...30 percent.
  - Formation chances in the next 5 days...medium...60 percent.

# FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix

Sept 11, 2018 – Sept 15, 2018



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DAY / THREAT	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Severe Storms					
Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding	STX (Early) TX Coast	TX & SW LA Coasts	TX & SW LA Coasts	S & S-Central TX	S & S-Central TX
Fire Weather					
Tropical Weather			TX Coast	TX Coast	
River Flooding	TX	TX			

	No Weather Threats Expected
	Very Common – Happens Often
	Common – Happens Frequently
	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year
	Rare – Once Every 1-5 Years
	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years

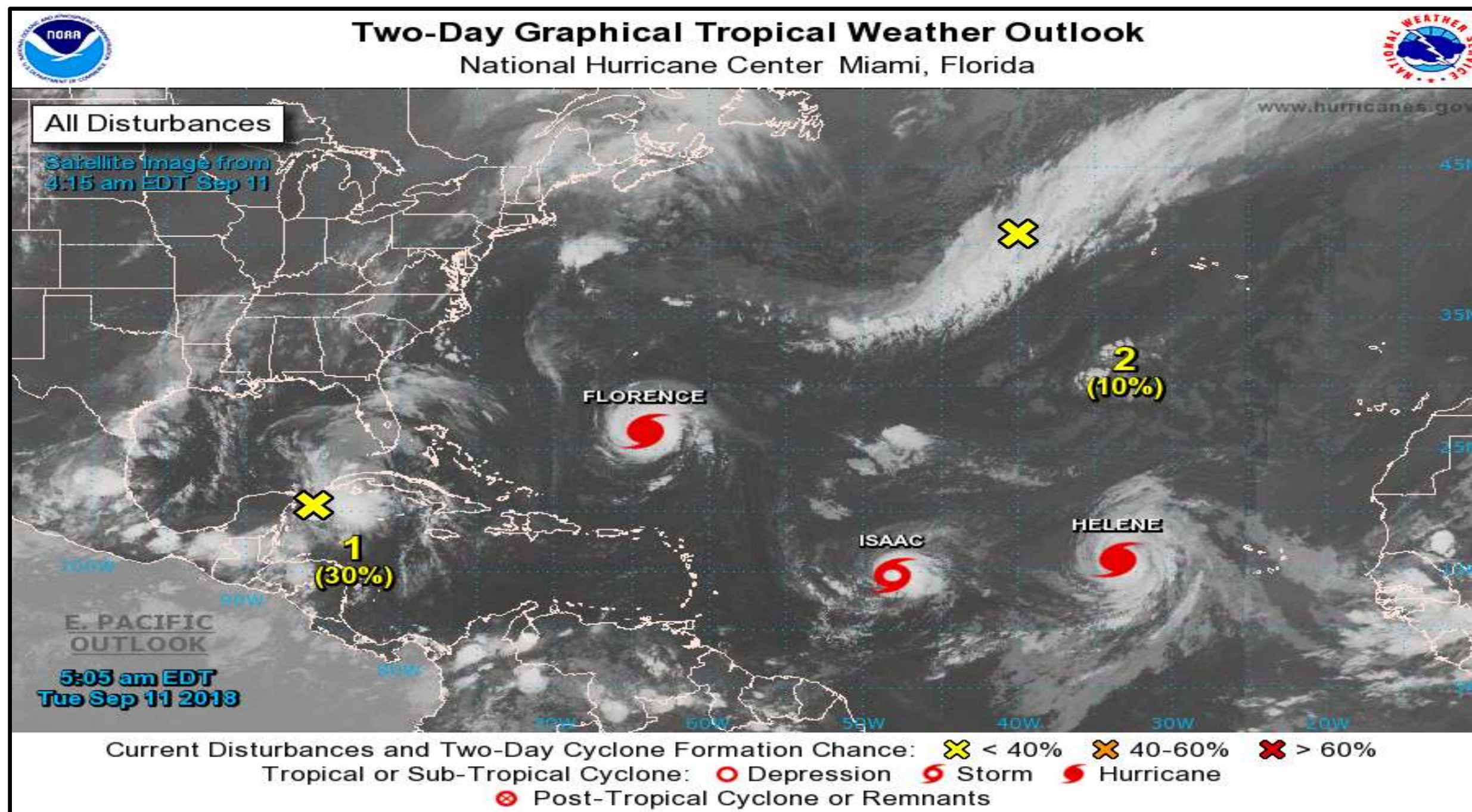
*\*Threat levels are based on FEMA Region 6 criteria.  
State or local threat level criteria may differ.\*  
For more details on the colors in the threat matrix refer to the last slide in this briefing.*



# Tropical Weather Outlook – Atlantic/Gulf



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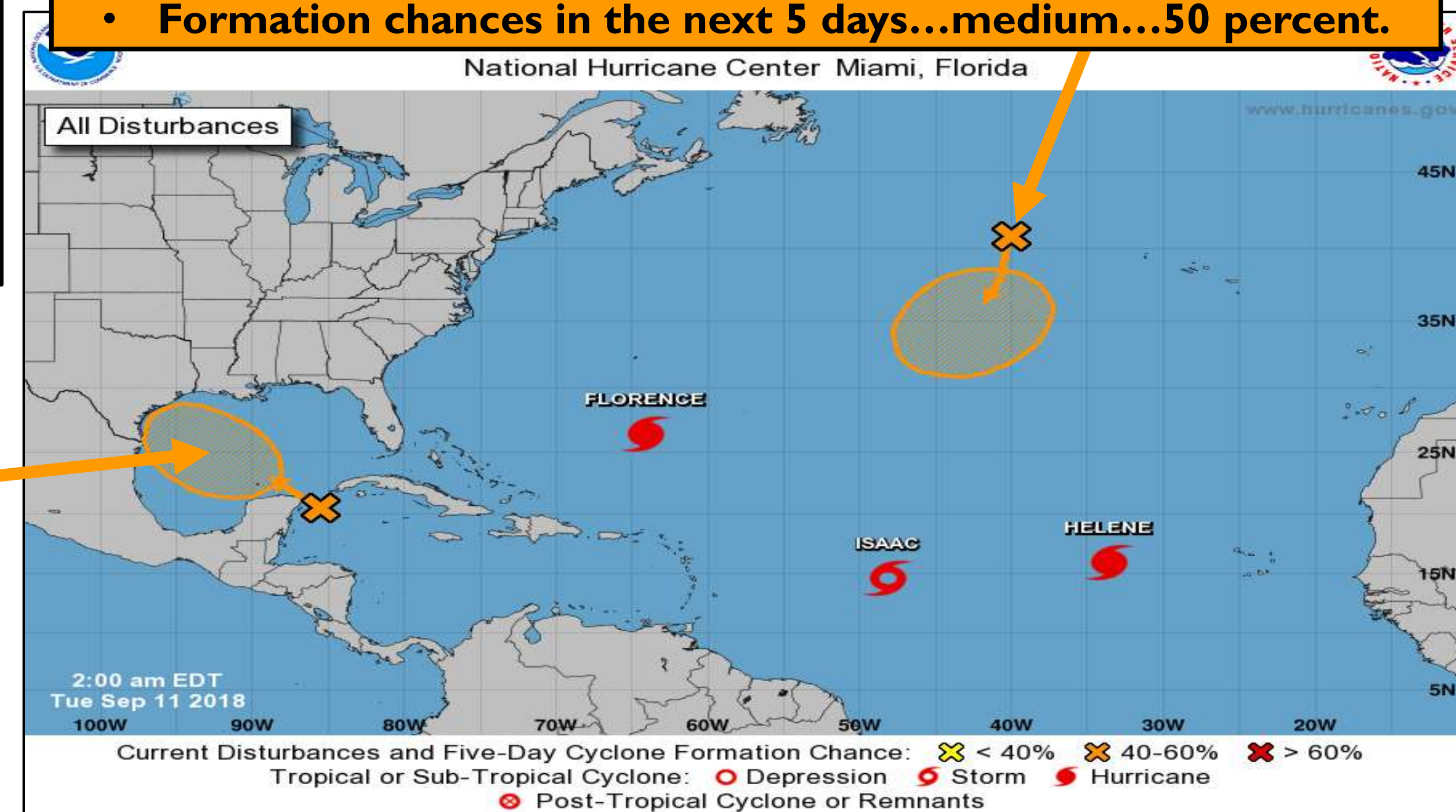
**A large area of disturbed weather over the extreme NW Caribbean Sea and the SE Gulf of Mexico is associated with a surface trough interacting with an upper level low. Although this activity is showing signs of organization, there are no signs of a surface circulation. Limited development is anticipated today, but upper level winds are forecast to become more conducive, and a tropical depression could form on Thursday or Friday while the disturbance moves across the western Gulf of Mexico.**

- Formation chances in the next 48 hours...low...30 percent.
- Formation chances through 5 days...medium...60 percent.

**See next slides for more information on Florence, Isaac, and Helene.**

**A non-tropical area of low pressure is forecast to form along a trough of low pressure located over the NE Atlantic Ocean. Environmental conditions are conducive for some development, and a tropical or subtropical depression could form by the end of the week while the low meanders over the NE Atlantic Ocean.**

- Formation chances in the next 48 hours...low...10 percent.
- Formation chances in the next 5 days...medium...50 percent.

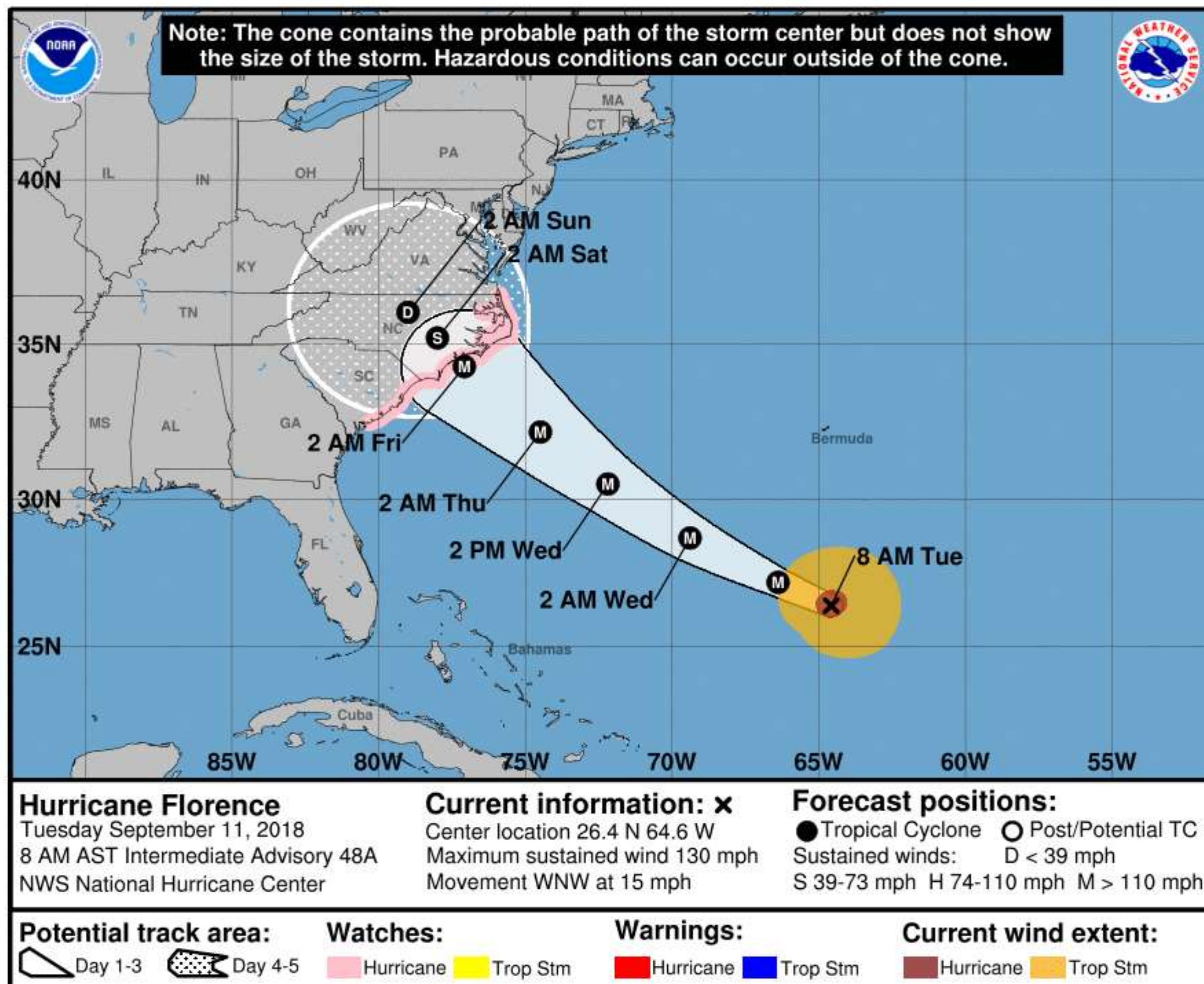




# Hurricane Florence



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Florence is moving toward the W-NW at 15 mph. A W-NW to NW motion with a slight increase in forward speed are expected during the next couple of days.

Maximum winds are near 130 mph with higher gusts. Florence is expected to be an extremely dangerous major hurricane through Thursday night as it approaches the east coast.

No Impacts to FEMA Region 6.



# Tropical Storm Isaac



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**Isaac is moving to the west at 14mph. This general motion is expected to continue through the end of the week.**

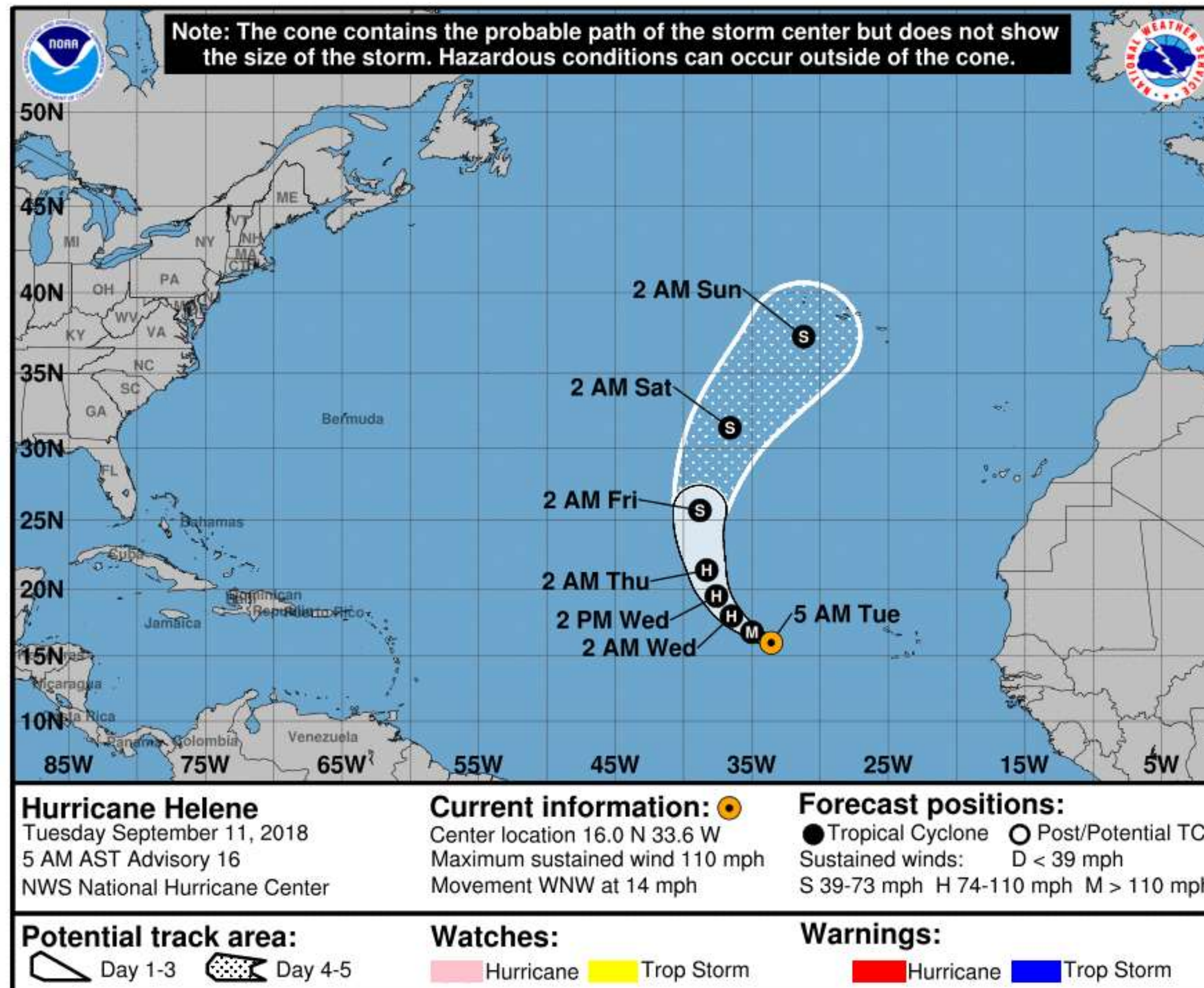
**Maximum sustained winds are near 70 mph with higher gusts. Little change in strength is forecast during the next few days, but Isaac is forecast to be at or near hurricane strength as it approaches the Lesser Antilles.**



# Hurricane Helene



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**Helene is moving toward the W-NW at 14 mph. This general motion is expected to continue with a decrease in forward speed through tonight.**

**Maximum winds are near 110 mph with higher gusts. Some strengthening is possible during the next 12 hours, but a gradual weakening trend is expected after that time.**

**No significant impacts to FEMA Region 6.**

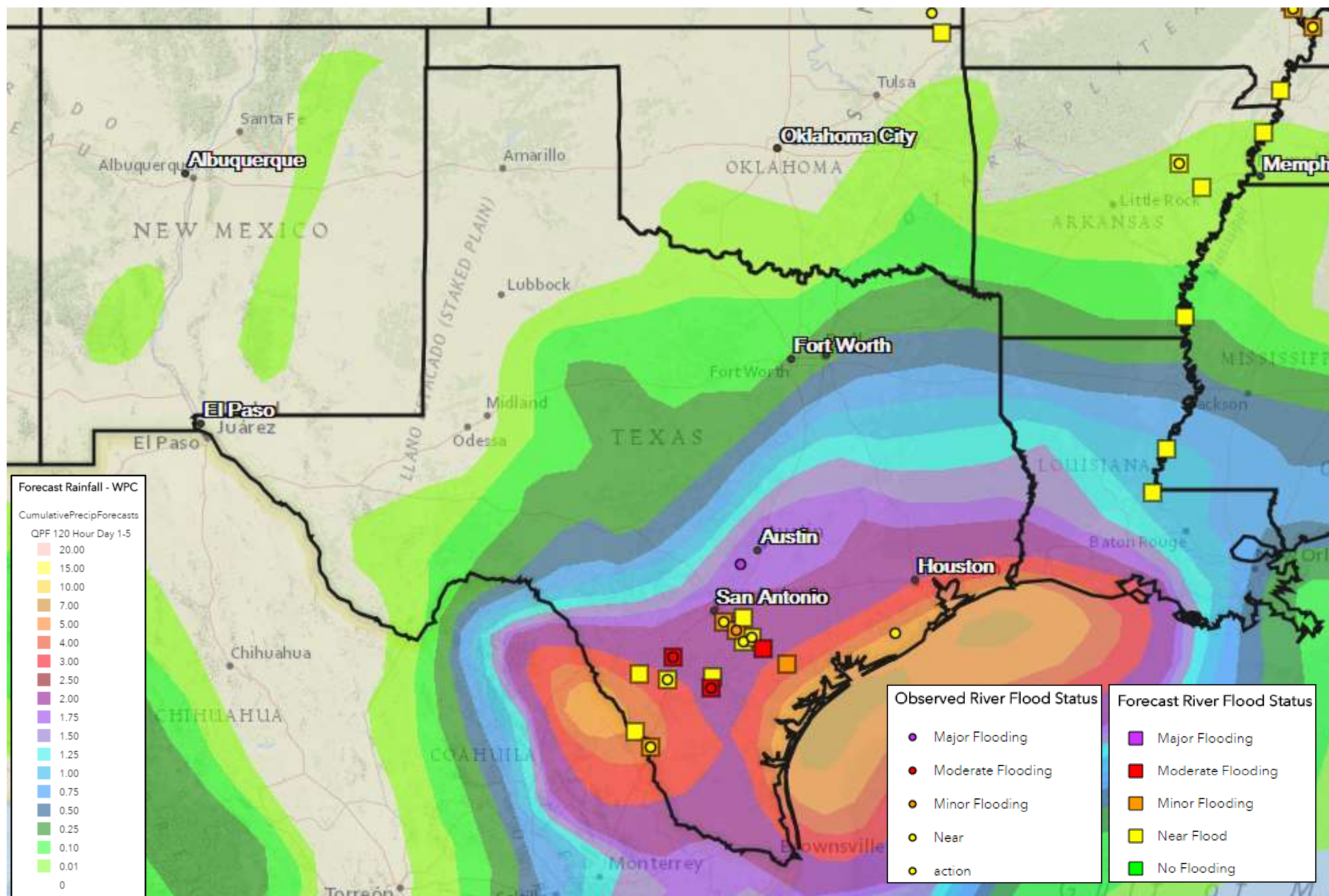


# 5-Day Precipitation Forecast & River Flood Status



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Note: Even though the image displays 5 days of forecasted rainfall, river forecasts only include 1-2 days of rainfall



River flooding working down the San Antonio River and Cibolo Creek will meet and cause moderate flooding for the San Antonio River near Runge and will stay elevated into the weekend.

Frio River is cresting and will begin to fall and slowly move downstream. Will all flow into Choke Canyon Reservoir but not for another couple of weeks.

Soils are saturated everywhere south of DFW in Texas, so rainfall will runoff quickly and cause streams and tributaries to elevate with rivers to follow soon after. Rainfall late this week into the weekend is highly uncertain at this time (location and amounts), so the amount and extent of river flooding may change as we head through the week.

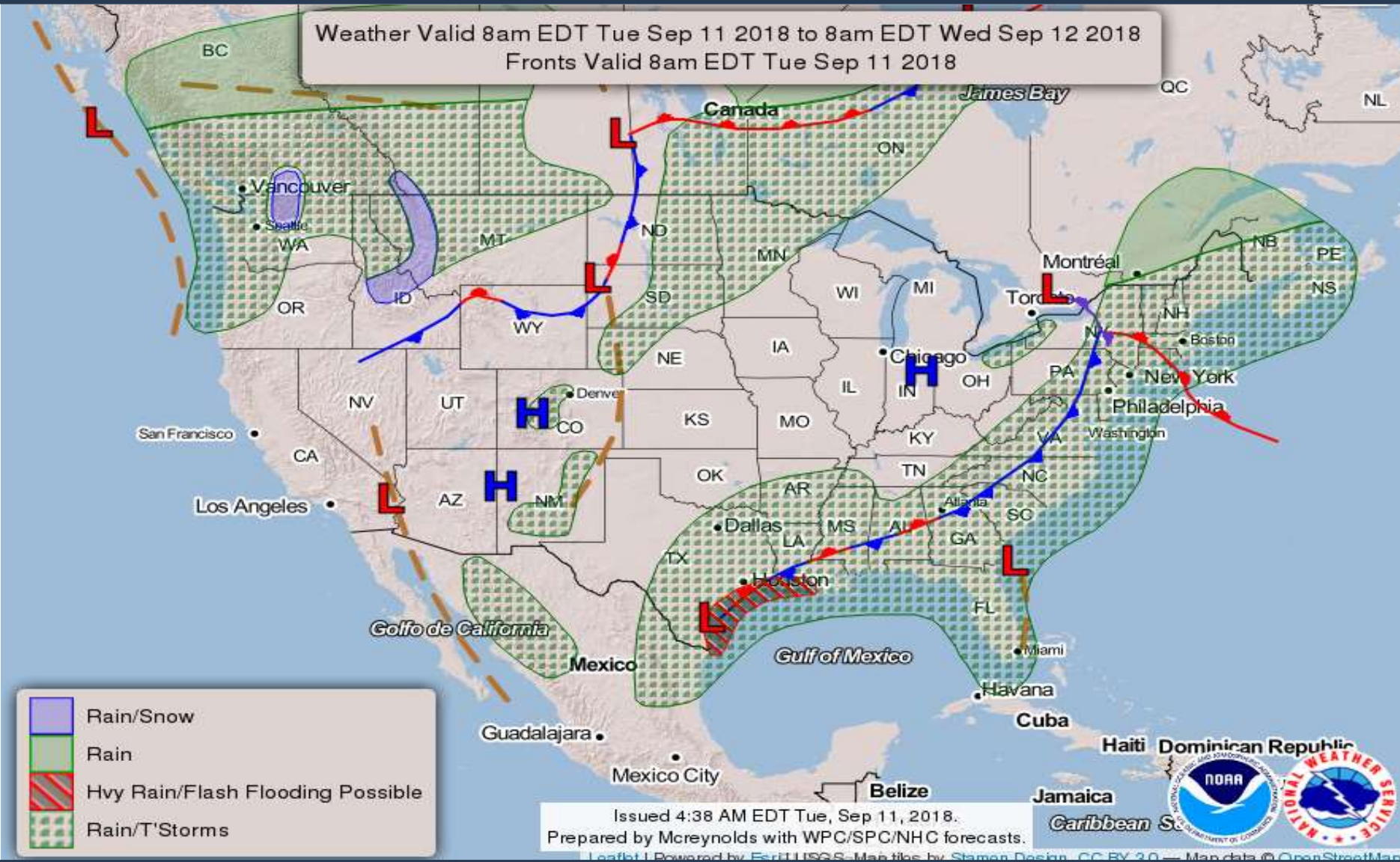


# Today's Weather



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## Forecast Chart

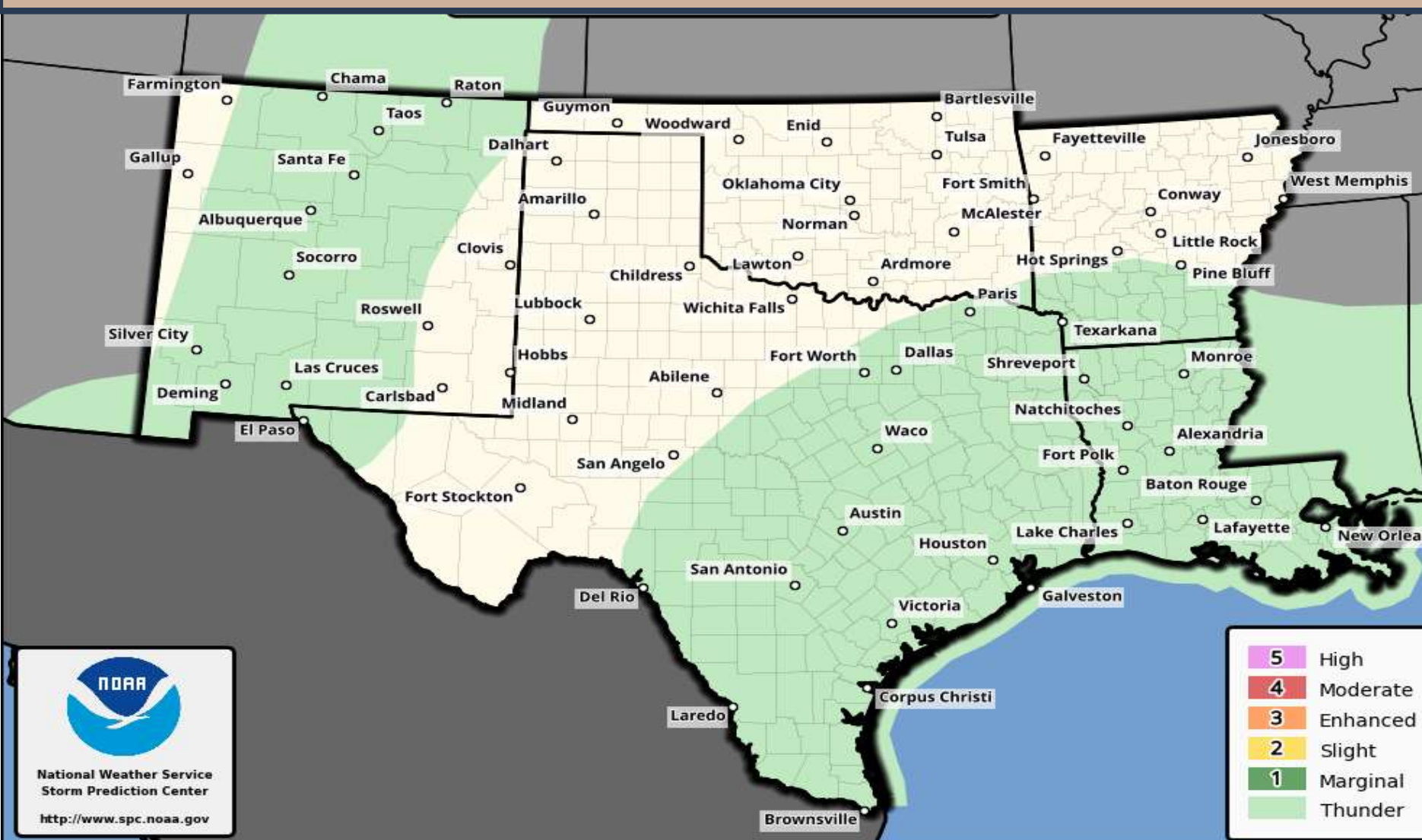


## Forecast Rainfall

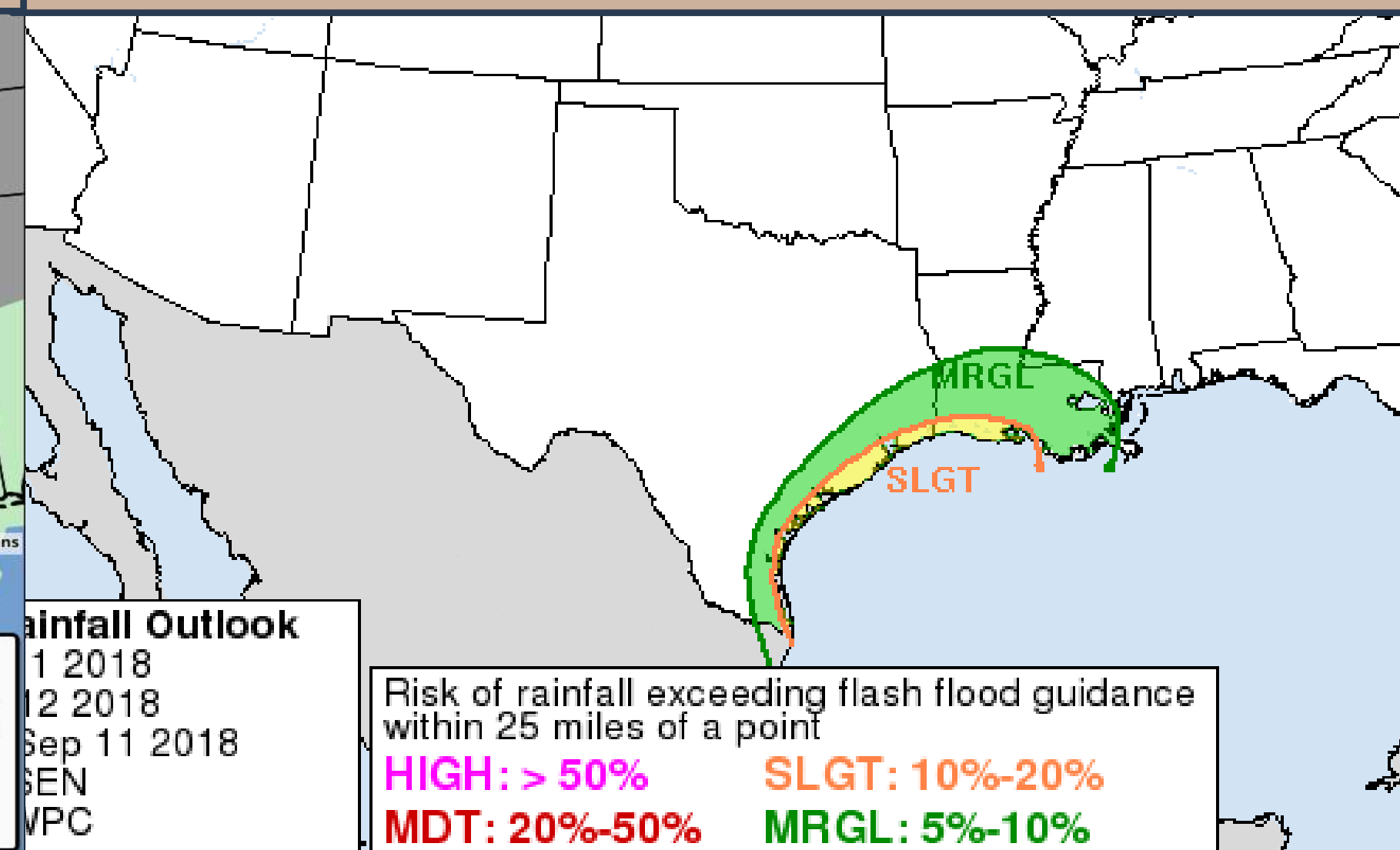


**Areas of heavy rain/flash flooding possible over STX this morning and along the TX coast throughout the day.**

## Severe Weather Outlook



## Excessive Rainfall Outlook





# Watches, Warnings, and Advisories



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## Fire Weather



Graphic Created

## Severe Weather & Flooding



Graphic Created

**Flash flood watches are in effect today over STX this morning and along the TX Coast throughout the day.**

## Strong & Gusty Winds



Graphic Created

## Winter Weather



Graphic Created

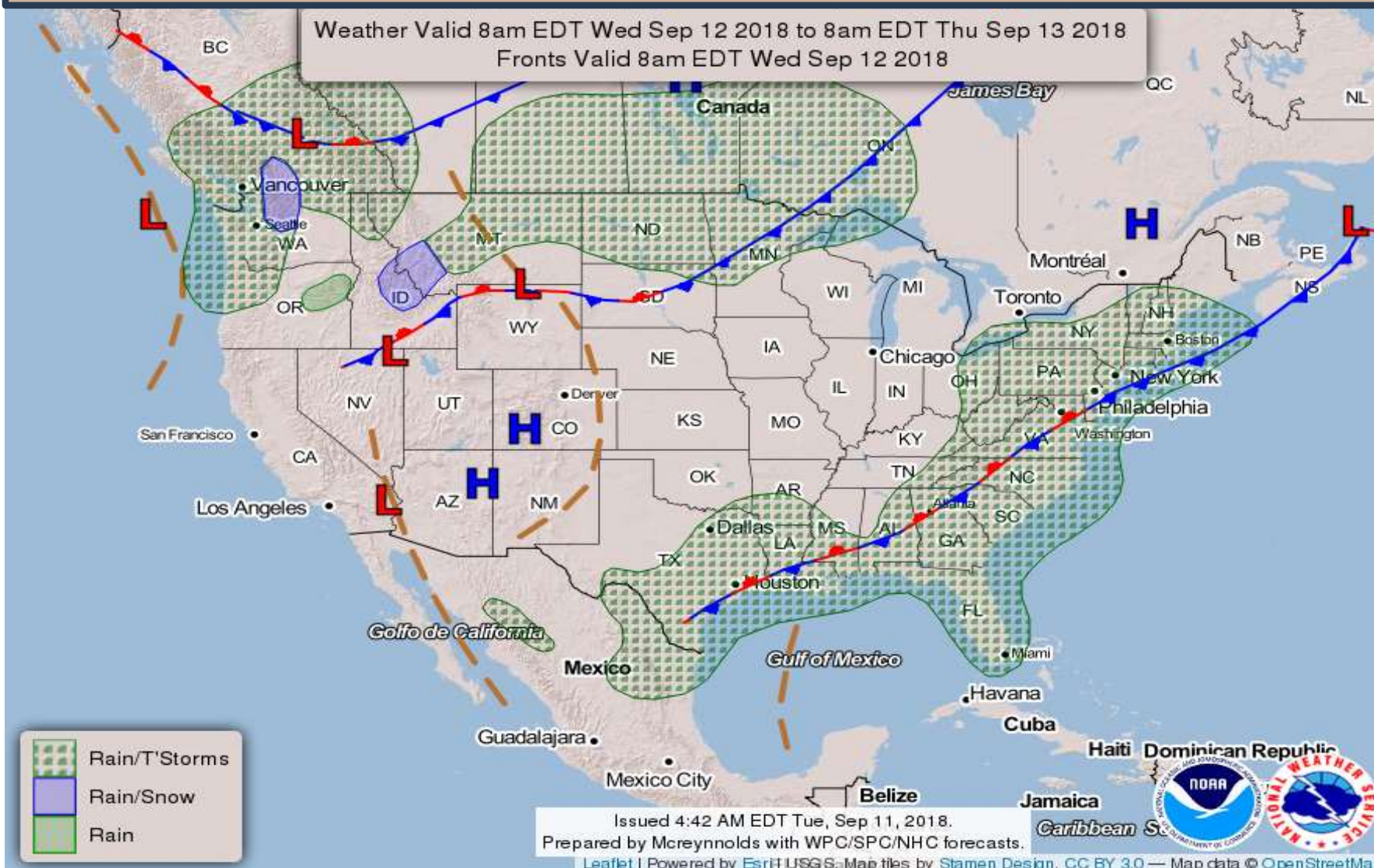


# Tomorrow's Weather



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## Forecast Chart

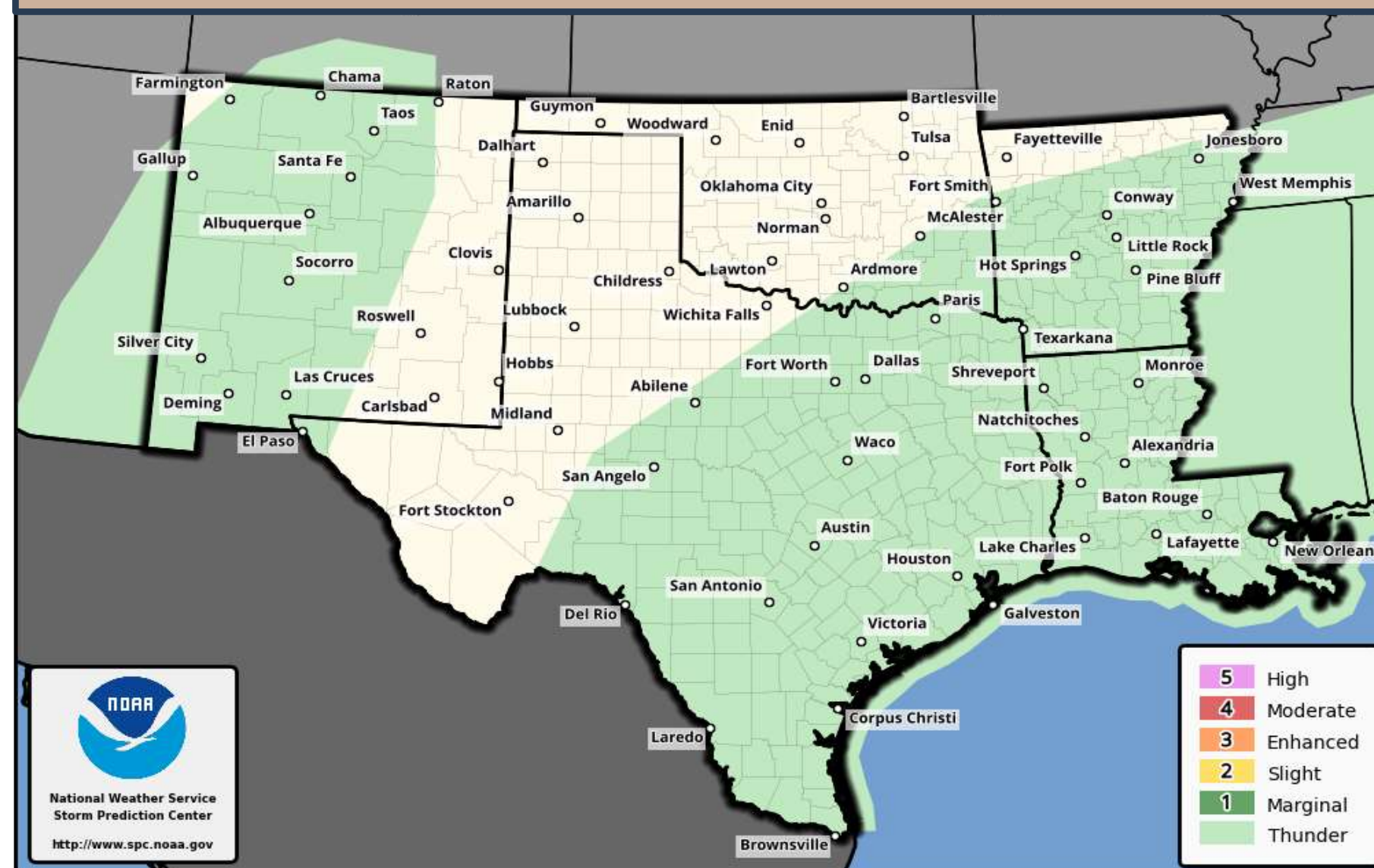


## Forecast Rainfall

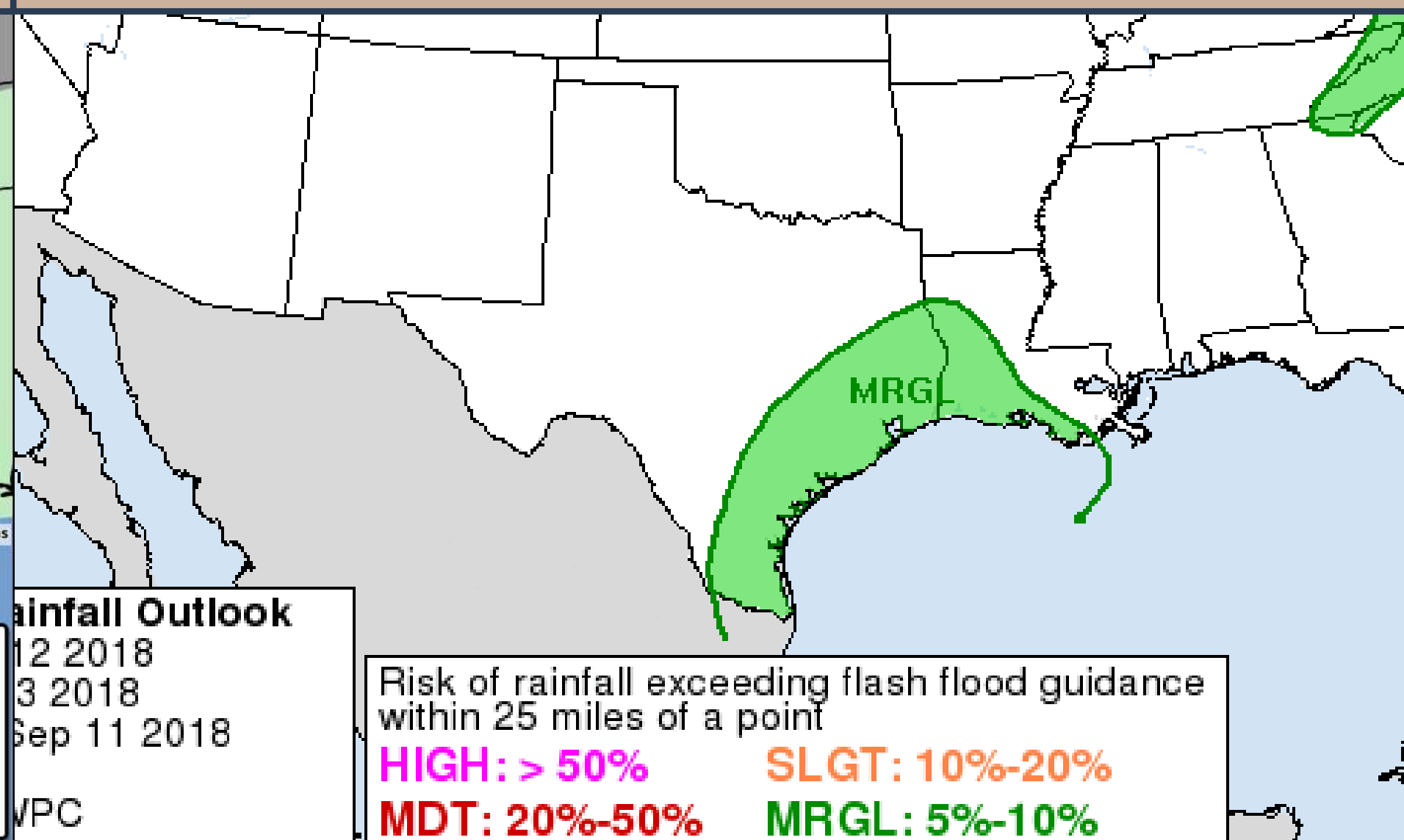


Isolated areas of heavy rain/flash flooding possible over the TX and SW LA coasts.

## Severe Weather Outlook



## Excessive Rainfall Outlook



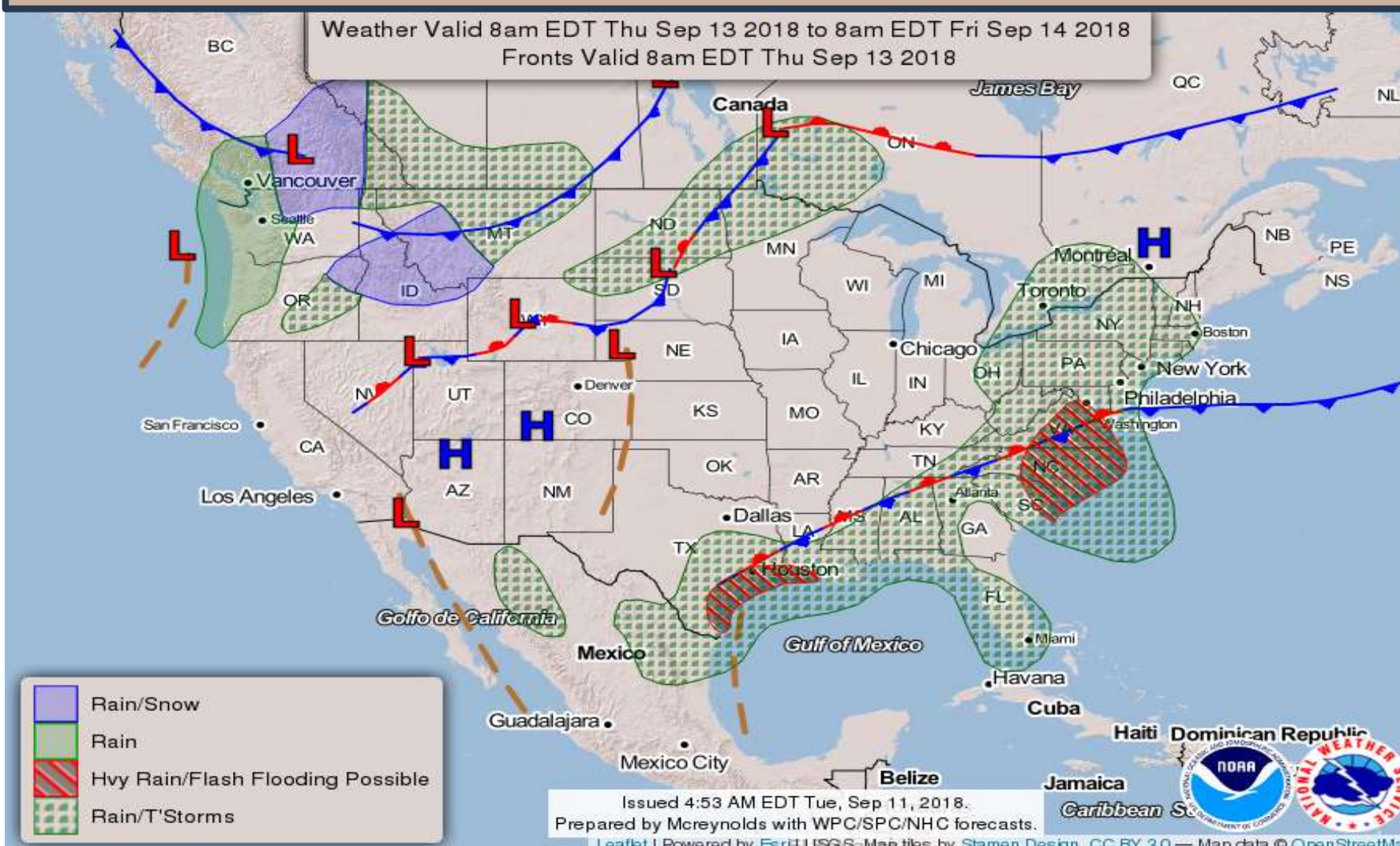


# Thursday's Weather



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## Forecast Chart



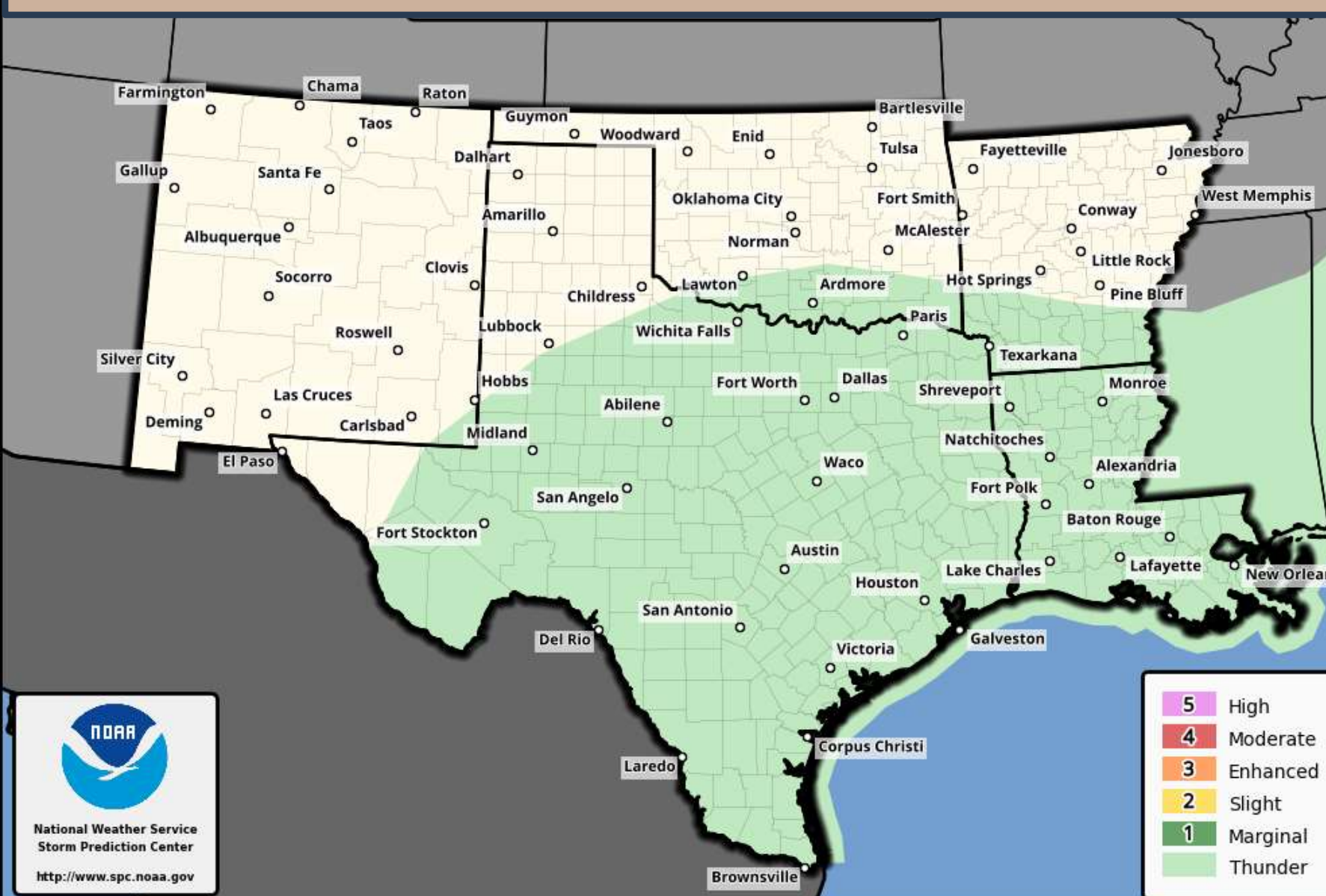
## Forecast Rainfall



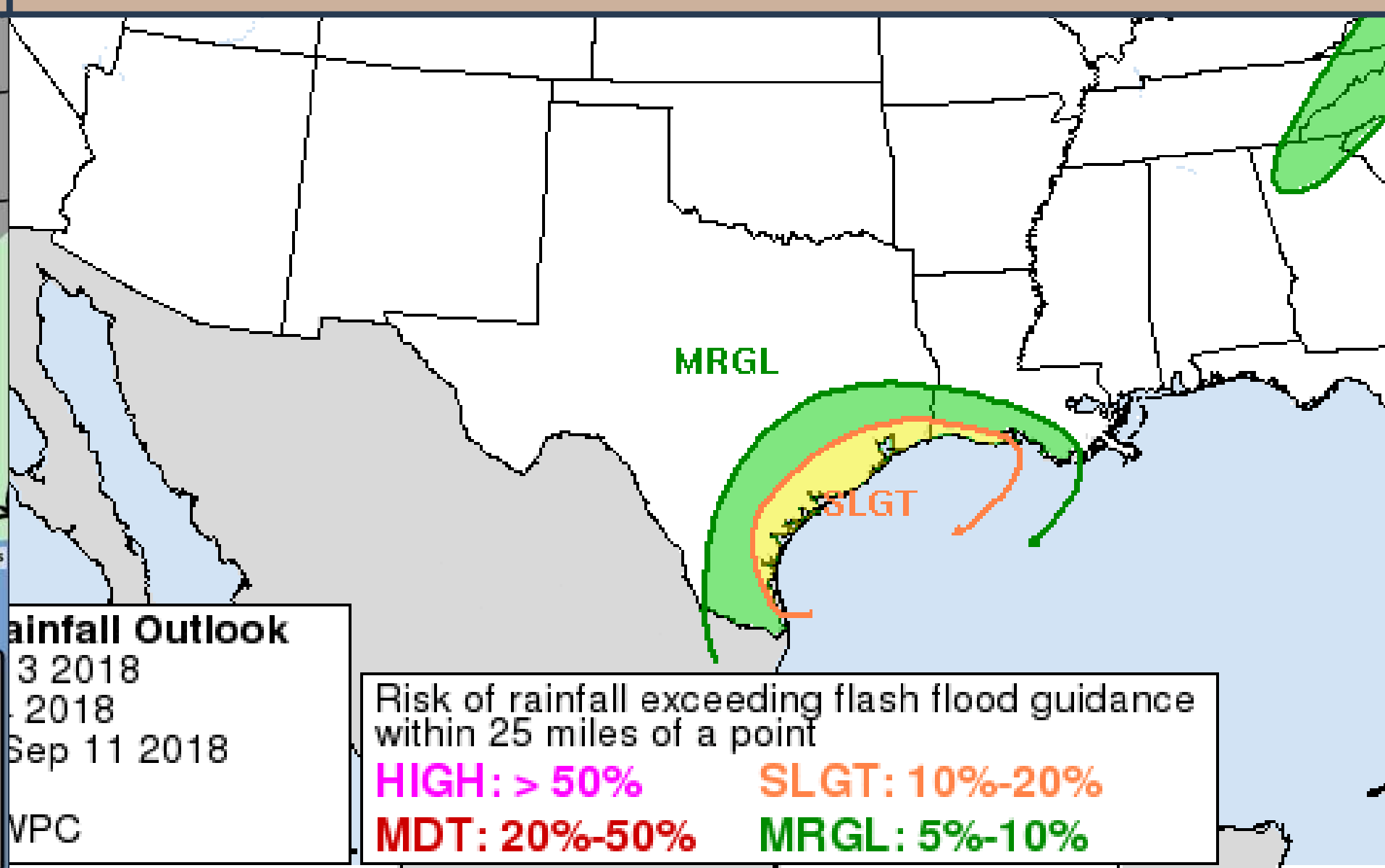
**Heavy rain possible  
along/near the TX and SW  
LA coasts.**

**A weak tropical system  
(perhaps a tropical  
depression) may be moving  
across the western Gulf of  
Mexico on Thursday and  
possibly towards the TX  
Coast.**

## Severe Weather Outlook



## Excessive Rainfall Outlook



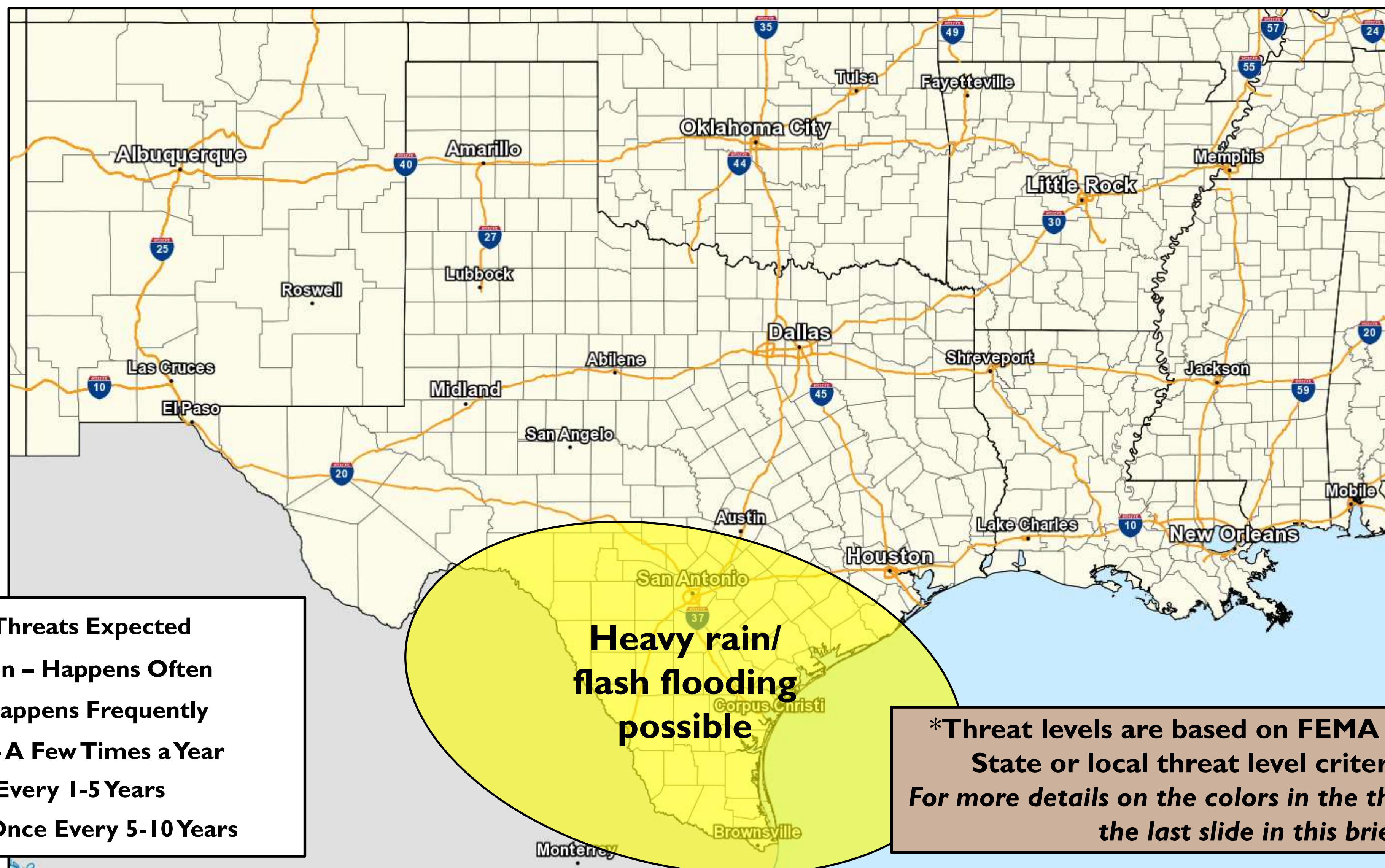


# Days 4-5 Weather Hazards

Friday - Saturday



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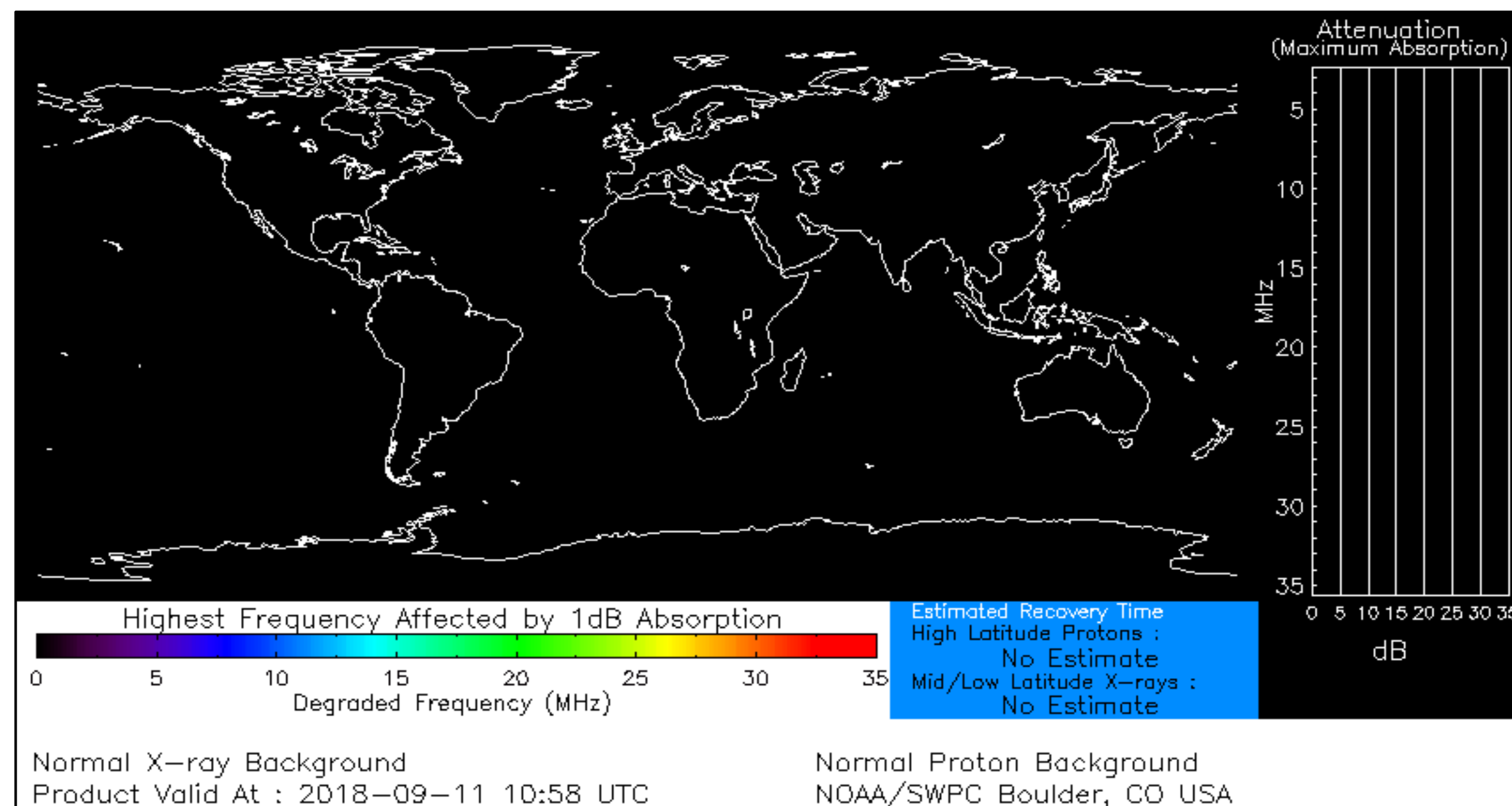


# Space Weather 3-Day Forecast



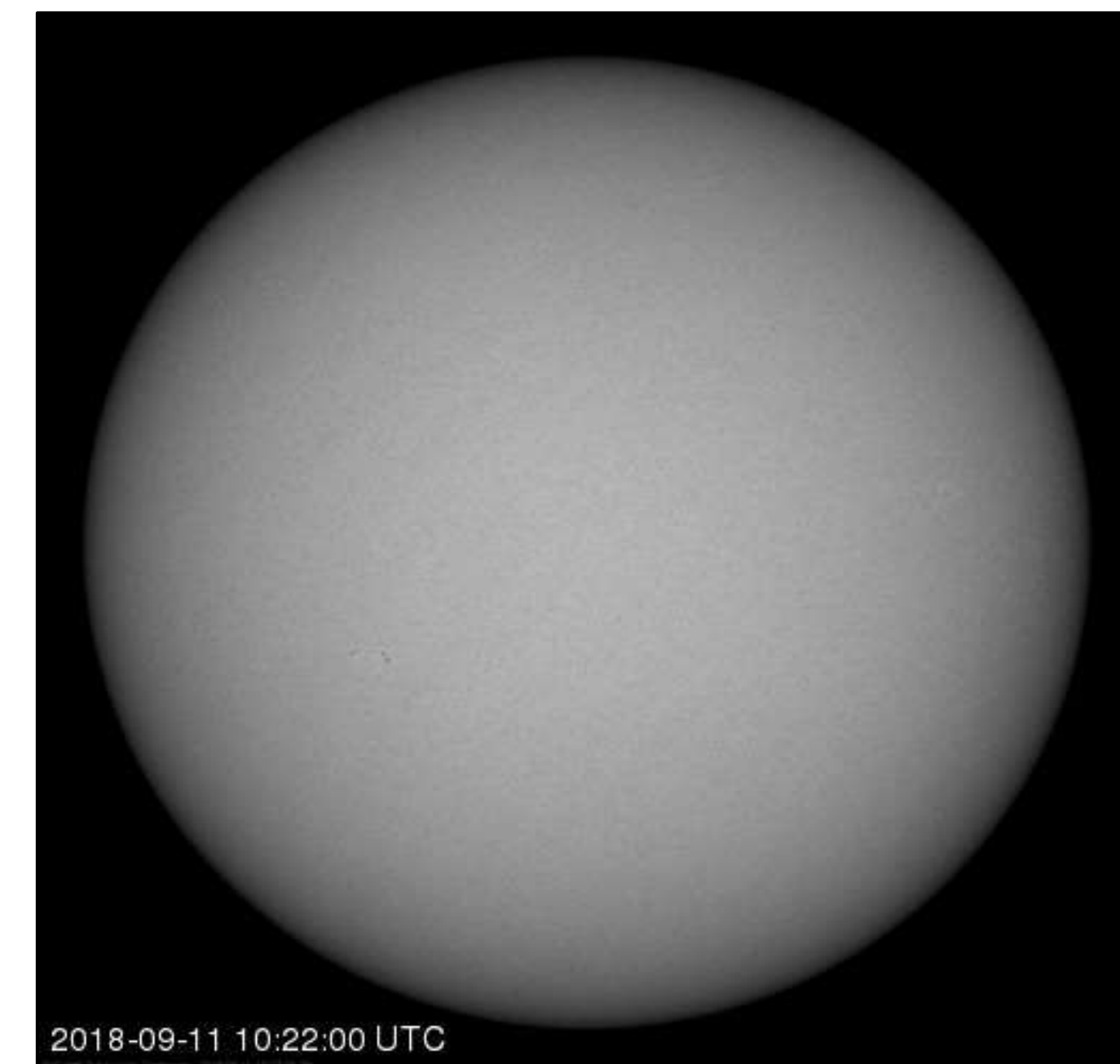
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	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Geomagnetic Storms	Minor (G1) Storm (Max Kp = 5)	Unsettled to Active (Max Kp = 4)	Quiet (Max Kp = 2)
Solar Radiation Storm (S1-S5)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R1-R2)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R3-R5)	1%	1%	1%



[Click here for a Description of the Space Weather Storm Scales](#)

[Click here for the Latest 3-Day Space Weather Forecast Text](#)







# For more information, please contact:

**National Weather Service**  
Southern Region Headquarters  
Regional Operations Center  
Fort Worth, TX

Phone: (682) 703-3747

E-mail: [sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov)

Web: <http://www.weather.gov/srh>





Weather “Threat” Matrix			
Color	Definition	Criteria	Example(s)
Green	<b>Very Common</b> Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Little Inconvenience to Daily Routines	Severe: Marginal Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over localized areas Tropical: None Fire Weather: No Watches/Warnings, fuel moisture above 10% or green up active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thunderstorms expected over LA this afternoon; a few may produce winds to knock down a few trees</li> <li>Something that happens almost every day in a particular season such as <u>seabreeze</u> storms in coastal TX</li> </ul>
Yellow	<b>Somewhat Common – Happens Frequently</b> Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Some Inconvenience to Daily Life	Severe: Slight Risk from SPC Flooding: Nuisance flooded expected for a widespread area, or Minor flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A weak tropical wave expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire Weather: Red Flag Watches/Warnings and/or SPC outlines enhanced or critical fire outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2-3 inches of rainfall expected over central AR today and tonight; some minor (brief) street flooding possible</li> <li>Scattered severe storms possible, one or two tornadoes expected, along with reports of strong winds/wind damage and ~1” hail</li> </ul>
Orange	<b>Uncommon – A Few Times a Year</b> Safety: Often Threatening to Life and Property, Some Damage Unavoidable Impact Potential: Typically Results in Minor Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Enhanced Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations), or Moderate flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A Tropical Storm expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Critical fire outlook for more than 2 consecutive days, Warnings for 2 or more consecutive days, D3-D4 drought conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A snow/sleet mix is expected to move through or near the DFW area tomorrow morning; travel impacts likely</li> <li>Numerous severe storms possible, a few tornadoes possible along with several reports of wind damage along with damaging hail</li> <li>Some large fires reported, burn bans advertised, critical conditions expected</li> </ul>
Red	<b>Rare – Once every 1-5 Years</b> Safety: Extensive Property Damage Likely, Life Saving Actions Also will be Needed Impact Potential: Will likely result in Large Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Moderate Risk from SPC Flooding: Moderate flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Hurricane expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large areas of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Category 1 hurricane will be moving towards the NW Gulf in the next few days</li> <li>Widespread severe storms likely, strong tornadoes, widespread wind damage, and destructive hail</li> <li>Large fires ongoing throughout the area with critical fire weather conditions expected to continue</li> </ul>
Purple	<b>Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years</b> Safety: Property Damage Unavoidable, Immediate Action to Save Life will be Needed Impact Potential: Typically Results in Long-Lived Widespread Major Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: High Risk from SPC Flooding: Major flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Major Hurricane (Cat3 or greater) expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large area of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Long term (months) of severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Category 4 hurricane is headed towards the SE LA; major storm surge, flooding and damaging winds anticipated to begin tomorrow</li> <li>Widespread severe storms expected, tornado outbreak probable with long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense storms</li> </ul>

**Criteria for the color codes in this briefing is to the left, please provide any feedback to**

**[sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov)**